GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1161
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
MINIMUM WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND MARGINAL SECTORS
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to ensure payment of minimum wages to workers in agricultural and marginal sectors;

(b) the causes for the variation between the minimum wages prescribed and actual wages in several States;

(c) whether the Government will implement the recommendations of Chakravarthi Committee report to ensure minimum wages which should not fall below the poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments, as appropriate Governments, fix and revise minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments including agricultural and marginal sectors under their respective jurisdiction. Their implementation is secured through the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and State Industrial Relations Machineries respectively.

(b): The minimum wages prescribed by the appropriate Governments under the Act only provide the threshold. The actual wage could be higher than the minimum wage depending upon the market factors.

(c) & (d): While fixing the minimum wages, the appropriate Governments take into account the norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference, 1957 like 3 consumption units for one earner, minimum food requirements of 2700 calories per average Indian adult, clothing requirement of 72 yards per annum per family, rent, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of expenditure etc. which help the recipient to cross the poverty line.